PRESS RELEASE

USAID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ARRIVES TOMORROW

DHAKA, December 6 -- Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Dr. Kent Hill arrives Friday, December 7 for a three day visit to Bangladesh. Dr. Hill is head of the Agency's Bureau of Global Health whose programs represent the commitment and determination of the U.S. Government to prevent suffering, save lives, and create a brighter future for families in the developing world. With an annual budget of over $1.6 billion, USAID's health programs are confronting global health challenges by improving the quality, availability and use of essential health services. Dr. Hill will visit some noted USAID health projects in Tongi and Bhaluka, including a Smiling Sun Health Clinic, the Social Marketing Company (SMC) oral rehydration salts factory, SMC Blue Star Pharmacy as well as the Bangladesh HIV/AIDS program in Dhaka.

USAID has been a significant partner in progress in the health sector of Bangladesh since its independence. As part of USAID's effort to improve the overall health condition of the Bangladeshi people, USAID will provide US$173 million over the next five years to fund programs supporting maternal and child health, family planning, tuberculosis eradication and HIV/AIDS mitigation under the health and population agreement with the government of Bangladesh.

USAID is the principal U.S. Government agency providing development assistance in more than 100 countries around the world. From 1971 to 2006, USAID has provided over $5 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh, with over half of that amount in food aid. In 2007, USAID provided US$78 million in development assistance and food aid to Bangladesh.

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Note: *A Bangla translation of this article is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail:* DhakaPA@state.gov; *Website:* http:// *dhaka.usembassy.gov*